



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
PABSEC

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

DOC: GA21/adhoc EC/1S-C IT/REP/03

**THE TWENTY FIRST PLENARY SESSION OF THE PABSEC GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL, TECHNOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

REPORT
ON THE CREATION OF
« BLACK SEA KNOWLEDGE-BASED INFORMATION SOCIETY »
Objective Process of the Globalisation of the Black Sea Region Economics

Rapporteur: Mr. K.A. Markelov, Member of the Committee on Economic, Commercial,
Technological and Environmental Affairs (Russia)

*Text approved by the Ad hoc Meeting of the Economic, Commercial, Technological and
Environmental Affairs Committee on 11 June 2003 in Chisinau and presented at the 21st General
Assembly in Chisinau on 11 June 2003*

1. In the past decade the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation has become authoritative as an important regional international organisation and with this impressive baggage has entered into the new millennium opening wide opportunities for all states and peoples of the world due to the deep changes in the system of functioning of the world economy. Globalisation of the world economy is one of the objective factors of contemporary life bearing in them huge prospects for the whole international community.

2. The system of the contemporary world economy undergoes qualitative changes in an environment where economic interdependence becomes an objective precondition for building the future world economic order. Increasingly free movement of capital and goods, fast transfer of technologies, dynamics of movement of workforce, internationalisation of the system of business management and complex economic decision-making - all those are undoubted attributes of the contemporary epoch. By opening borders and connecting national economies increasingly closer, globalisation offers new opportunities for development of all countries.

However, globalisation bears with itself new challenges and threats represented, first of all, by the growth of international crime, political and economic terrorism, money laundering obtained by criminal means and illegal migration.

The absence of equal access for all countries and strata of the population to the opportunities offered by the world globalisation processes increases the marginalisation of broad social groups. All that creates a nutritious environment for terrorism and terrorism-related manifestations of transborder crime, illegal migration, unlawful traffic in arms and drugs.

The interdependence of economies is fraught with the danger of avalanche-like globalisation of economic crises. The economic and political instability puts under question the efficiency of the use of natural, technological, financial and human resources. Such important spheres as economic integration and sustainable development, communications, technologies, agricultural development, business dimension, governance and crime prevention are under threat.

3. We have to face not only acute global challenges, but regional ones as well. First of all we face the problems that hinder regional economic development, political stability and social accord.

Those include the different and uneven nature of development of the economies of the countries the Black Sea region, differences in political practices and legislative bases, different economic and political obligations in relation to global and regional international organisations.

4. In such conditions the states of the Black Sea region made a responsible step by undertaking in 1992 within the framework of the newly-created Black Sea Economic Cooperation to solve a difficult task of completing geographical regionalisation with independent economic contents. Cooperation within the framework of the BSEC is a complex process of wide cooperation, optimum mobilisation of financial and material resources and rational use of natural wealth. The launching of integration processes in difficult economic and political conditions is an unordinary task, the solution of which we have begun.

5. In February, 1993 the cooperation within the BSEC framework got its parliamentary dimension - the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation was created, the celebration of the ten years' anniversary of which is on the agenda of this General Assembly.

The parliamentary direction, certainly, plays a leading role in the cooperation within the BSEC framework. The legislative regulation and support of political, economic and humanitarian processes taking place in the Black Sea region is the basis of our activities. Within the framework of the organisation we, parliamentarians of the BSEC member-countries, carry out the evaluation of conformity of national legislation to the level and scale of regional tasks put forward, we implement «a verification» of the laws in force in our countries, we determine measures to bring obsolete legal norms in conformity with the requirements of today.

6. The activities of the member-countries of our organisation are more and more concentrated on particular regional projects. Those include development of communications of the Black Sea region with access to trans-European main ways, creation of a favourable economic regime for regional trade and economic cooperation. The prospect of interaction emerges in the field of agriculture, tourism and assistance to small and medium businesses.

7. Projects carried out within the framework of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation require introduction into the organisation's activities of technologies meeting the modern world standards of information interchange, situation analysis, risk forecasting and making of operative decisions. As of today our organisation lacks such technologies.

The process of evolution of information technologies testifies that the products of intellectual work become more and more independent. And though within the limits of the visible future a complete break between the creator of active intellectual product and the actually fruit of his/her work is not foreseen, we should expect a further increase of the intellectual component of tasks carried out in operational environment.

Quite recently the notion about the use of computer's operational capacities was limited to creation of databases, but today the task is already set to create such multi-user operational systems that allow, on the basis of available information to carry out an estimation and analysis of a situation in various areas, to develop options of solutions and to evaluate risks accompanying the implementation of various practical measures.

The gap between the dynamics of development of contemporary projects and the lack of funds and adequate models for situation analysis and communication infrastructure is one of the essential problems of development of intensive cooperation in the Black Sea region. In this connection the task of creating a regional information space at the present moment is most urgent, and it is not by chance that now the question of introducing the newest information technologies into the activities of the BSEC Parliamentary Assembly is on the agenda.

8. Worth mentioning is the contribution of the national delegation of the Hellenic Republic, in particular, its head Madam Maria Arsenis, who has opened within the framework of our organisation a discussion on the prospects of information society and consistently stresses the importance of starting information processes in the PABSEC.

9. There has been a solidarity of all national delegations of the PABSEC without exception in their understanding *«of the growing importance of information society created as a result of rapid development of information and telecommunication technologies»* *.

This indisputable fact was confirmed by the unanimous adoption at the 20th Plenary Session of the PABSEC General Assembly in Athens of Recommendation 66/2002 «On Information Society and the Role of New Technologies» that set a task of *«a closer integration of all countries»* in the global information space with the purpose of maintaining *«equal chances for all states»* irrespective

* Henceforth parts of the text of Recommendation 66/2002 "On information Society and the Role of New Technologies" are given in italics.

of the level of economic development or political obligations in relation to the global and regional international organisations.

10. Implementation of the idea voiced in the proposal of the national delegation of the Hellenic Republic about the creation of a Subcommittee on Information Technologies within the framework of the PA BSEC Committee on Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs has become an institutional development of the common understanding of the extreme importance of a most speedy start of information processes in the PABSEC.

The Russian delegation supported that proposal. This Subcommittee must become an important tribune for discussion of the issues of informatisation of the PABSEC, an effective platform for launching the practical realisation of various projects in the field of information and telecommunication technologies. Parliamentarians, members of national delegations of the PABSEC, can state there their problems in the area considered and to discuss the possibilities of their solution. It is expedient to attract to the work of the Subcommittee also experts from organisations that will carry out the realisation of various projects for the benefit of the Parliamentary Assembly.

11. The solution of such large-scale and ambitious tasks is within the power of joint efforts only and each national delegation will be able to offer something for the achievement of the important and very urgent goal of creation of the common information space of the BSEC countries.

The Russian delegation representing a state endowed with advanced achievements in the field of high technologies and high-class experts in the sphere of software programming does possess capacities for making a real practical contribution into the solution of the task set.

Today we want to bring your attention to a concrete project on creation of the common information space of the BSEC member-countries, that on our part has got a preliminary title of «Black Sea Information Alliance». However, the final decision as regards the title, as well as much more substantial question of political support to the project, certainly, lies within the sphere of the competence of the Assembly.

The preliminary presentation of the above-mentioned project was held within the framework of the 20th Session of the PABSEC Committee on Economic, Commercial, Technological and Environmental Affairs that took place on 11 March 2003, in Baku. Parliamentarians from other

national delegations of the PA BSEC, who participated in that session, unanimously supported the Russian project and the decision to bring it to the consideration of the present General Assembly.

12. The purpose of the project is to create the single information space of the BSEC member-countries with the purpose of a more effective management of economic, political and social spheres of life activities of the Black Sea region, rational nature use and generation of optimum ecological-economic strategies of management of industrial, agrarian and fuel-economic complexes.

The creation of distributed information-analytical centres in each BSEC country, incorporated in the single corporate network and working within the single information environment is planned as the basic infrastructure of the common information space.

The Russian side is ready to undertake the development of information shell for the network of distributed information-analytical centres. It also plans to undertake the expenses on the creation of the basic software, which is the most costly part of this project, with the use of its own funds as a gratuitous material contribution to the cause of creation of the single communication field of the PABSEC in accordance to the requirements of today.

It is envisaged that the allocated access to the network will belong to such BSEC structures as, for example, the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank, the International Centre for the Black Sea Studies, the BSEC Business Council. In case of a necessity, it is possible to unite the corporate information-analytical system of the PA BSEC with the systems of other international organisations. Such a necessity is an objective reality of existence of the countries represented in the PABSEC, which are members of various global and regional organisations.

Being aware that, not all information that a national delegation would like to place on the server is of an open nature for all users, the developers of the information-analytical system provided for a three-level structure of the PABSEC information space based on the use of Extranet, Intranet and Internet technologies.

The first level (Extranet) will include the data that due to confidentiality or other specific reasons will not be open to free access of all members of the information space. The procedure and terms of access to such information, quantitative and name-specific list of the users will be determined by each particular national delegation of the PABSEC or the system administrator authorised by it.

The second level (Intranet) will unite the countries' distributed information-analytical centres, all national delegations and the users identified by them. As it has already been noted, those, first of all, might include such BSEC-related structures as the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank, the International Centre for Black Sea Studies, the BSEC Business Council, as well as international organisations having close connections with the BSEC.

The third level (Internet) will embrace the information submitted to the Internet by the BSEC countries BSEC for an easy access of all users of the world information network.

Thus, in order to reach external users it is planned to use the Internet worldwide information network. The corporate Intranet network will be created for publication of the information on the scale of the information-analytical centres of the PABSEC countries. In order to solve the specialised tasks with the specifics of confidentiality a possibility of using the Extranet solutions is considered.

13. The project proposed by the Russian party is in full conformity with the above-mentioned Recommendation 66/2002 and envisages concrete practical steps to solve the important tasks set in that document.

The creation and use of the common information space will facilitate a multiplication of contacts between the participants of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and creation of such «density» of business community that will be possible to create a breakthrough in this area at state level. The increase of competence and systemic nature of business cooperation imply an assistance to a wider economic integration, development of bases for establishment of more effective business ties, giving additional dynamics to the intensive partnership of the PABSEC with the international organisations related to it and coordination of economic policies and law-making in the countries of the Black Sea basin.

14. The system has a unique capacity, that is, the possibility of carrying out the audit of national legislation and check-up of its conformity to the standards of the European Union. It is very important, considering the fact that some member-states of our organisation are candidates to become members of the EU and carry out measures to reach uniformity of their domestic legal norms with the EU standards. Besides the existence of the common information space within the frameworks of the BSEC will promote a more dynamic integration of these countries in the

European Union, considering the importance that leading European international organisation attaches to the application of high technologies in the states' practical activities.

15. The present Report presenting the project of the Russian delegation titled «Black Sea Information Alliance » accompanies the Recommendation 71/2003.